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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 OMB-01 EB-07 /081 W
----------050539Z 000428 /11
R 041603Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 342
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
STATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VICTORIA 228
E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECON, SE
SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENT PLAN ADOPTED BY NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

REF: VICTORIA 223

1. SEYCHELLES' NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON APRIL 27 ADOPTED FIRST NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN, FIVE-YEAR ROLLING PLAN WHICH IS ESTIMATED TO COST U.S. DOLS. 60 MILLION AT CONSTANT 1977 PRICES. IN HIS PRESENTATION SPEECH, PRIME MINISTER F.A. RENE SHARPLY CRITICIZED BRITAIN FOR NEGLECTING SEYCHELLES' DEVELOPMENT PRIOR TO EARLY 1970'S, CITED RECENT CAPITAL PROJECTS AND FOREIGN INVESTMENT (WHICH, HE SAID, IN 1976 ENABLED SEYCHELLES TO ACHIEVE 10 PER CENT INCREASE IN NATIONAL OUTPUT) AND CALLED FOR DIVERSIFICATION OF ECONOMY TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS. IN DEFENDING THE NEED FOR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, RENE SAID THAT PREVIOUS DEVELOPMENT IN SEYCHELLES WAS ACCOMPLISHED IN INEFFICIENT, "HAPHAZARD" FASHION.

2. DEVELOPMENT PLAN (COPY POUCHED AF/E) POINTS OUT DIRECTION GOVERNMENT EXPECTS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT TO TAKE OVER PERIOD 1977-1981 AND SETS OUT NATIONAL OBJECTIVES AND
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PRIORITIES. HIGH RATE OF POPULATION GROWTH (POPULATION HAS DOUBLED IN PAST 25 YEARS; 42 PER CENT ARE CURRENTLY UNDER 15 YEARS OLD) SINGLED OUT AS GREATEST IMPEDIMENT TO ATTAINMENT OF DEVELOPMENT GOALS. ALTHOUGH SEYCHELLES HAS WORSENING TRADE BALANCE (34 MILLION DOLLARS IN 1976), RENE SAID OVERALL BALANCE OF PAYMENTS POSITION HAS IMPROVED, MAINLY DUE TO TRIPLING OF TOURIST RECEIPTS BETWEEN 1974 AND 1976 AND LARGE INFLOW OF

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PRIVATE FOREIGN CAPITAL (ESTIMATED AT 10 MILLION DOLLARS IN 1976). RENE CALLED PRIVATE CAPITAL INVESTMENT SINCE INDEPENDENCE AND "AMAZING TRIBUTE" TO INTERNATIONAL CONFIDENCE IN SEYCHELLES.

3. CHIEF AIMS OF PLAN, WHICH WILL UNDERGO ANNUAL REVIEW, ARE A) DIVERSIFICATION OF ECONOMY THROUGH DEVELOPMENT OF A MAJOR DEEP SEA FISHING INDUSTRY AND INCREASED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION; B) DEVELOPMENT OF OUTER ISLANDS; C) IMPROVED DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH: D) SLOWER RATE OF POPULATION GROWTH; E) HOME OWNERSHIP FOR AS LARGE A SECTION OF THE COMMUNITY AS POSSIBLE; F) INCREASED PARTICIPATION BY SEYCHELLOIS IN ALL ASPECTS OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND G) CONSERVATION OF SEYCHELLES' NATURAL BEAUTY AND RESOURCES. BULK OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO BE COMMITTED UNDER PLAN ARE FOR ECONOMIC SERVICES (30 PER CENT) AND INFRASTRUCTURE AND UTILITIES (30 PER CENT). SOCIAL SERVICES, INCLUDING HOUSING, SCHEDULED TO RECEIVE ONLY 20 PER CENT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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TAGS: ECON, SE
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